# TOWNSHIP OF ELLIS Cheboygan County, Michigan | b - 1050 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Year Ended March 31, 2004

# Michigan Dept. of Treasury, Local Audit & Finance Division 496 (3-98). Formerly L-3147 AUDITING PROCEDURES REPORT

issue under P.A. 2	2 of 19	968, as amend	IRES REF led. Filing is mai	ORT ndatory				
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City X To	wnsh	ip		Township o	f Ellis		Chohou	
March 31,	200	4	Opinion Date July 23, 2	2004	Date Accountant Re July 23, 2004	port Submitted to	Cheboy State:	
We have audi	ted t	he financia	I statements	-611			<del></del>	
Reporting For Department of	mat Tre	lance with for Finance asury.	the Statemer ial Statemen	nts of the Gover tts for Counties	of government and rnmental Accountir and Local Units of	ng Standards B	in Michigan	and the <i>Uniform</i> by the Michigan
We affirm that							RECE DEPT. OF T	
2. We are cert	ompi	led with the	Bulletin for	the Audits of Lo	cal Units of Govern	ment in Michi	ian asAld√ais&d]	1 2004
the report of co	m th mm	e following ents and re	. "Yes" respector	onses have beer ons	ce in Michigan. In disclosed in the fi	nancial stater	ents, Altiliang	MARGFORES, or in
You must check	k the	applicable	box for each	h item below.				
∐ yes ⊠ no	1.	Certain c	omponent ur	nits/funds/agenc	ies of the local unit	are excluded	from the fines	
☐ yes ⊠ no	2.	incic are	accumulate (P.A. 275 of	ed deficits in one	or more of this un	it's unreserved	fund balances	cial statements. dretained
☐ yes ☒ no	3.				e with the Uniform	Accounting an	d Budgeting A	ct (P.A. 2 of
☐ yes ☒ no	yes 🗵 no 4. The local unit has violated the conditions of sith and the second sit is second sith.							
☐ yes ☒ no								
☐ yes ☒ no				a/	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	is amenden im	(:  XX 11221\	
_					ributing tax revenu			
Ll yes ⊠ no	yes no 7. The local unit has violated the Constitutional requirement (Article 9, Section 24) to fund current year and the overfunding credits are more than the normal cost requirement, no contributions are due							
☐ yes ☒ no					s not adopted an ap			
					tment policy as req			
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We have enclo						Enclosed	To Be Forwarded	Not Required
The letter of com						Х		7
Reports on indivi	Reports on individual federal financial assistance programs (program audits).							
Single Audit Reports (ASLGU).					X			
Certified Public Acco	ounta	nt (Firm Nam	e)					
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512 N. Lincoln.	, Sui	te 100, P.C	). Box 686		City Bay City	Stat	. 1	
Accountant Signatur Campbell,	e			$\sim$	Bay City	M	4870	7
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## CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS** 

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### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

July 23, 2004

To the Township Board Township of Ellis Cheboygan County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Township of Ellis, Cheboygan County, Michigan, as of March 31, 2004, and for the year then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Township of Ellis' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the Township of Ellis, Cheboygan County, Michigan, as of March 31, 2004, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of the Township of Ellis, Cheboygan County, Michigan. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C. Certified Public Accountants

## COMBINED BALANCE SHEET – ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS March 31, 2004 EX EXHIBIT A

<u>Assets</u>	Government General	al Fund Types Special Revenue	Fiduciary Fund Type Agency	Account Group General Fixed Assets
Cash in bank Investments Taxes receivable Due from other funds Land and improvements Buildings Equipment	28 084 59 56 030 57 3 446 85 1 100 67	27 779 04 96 099 96 5 694 69 - - -	- 1 100 67 - - - - -	- - - 3 141 00 44 486 18 <u>3 633 98</u>
Total Assets	88 662 68	129 573 69	<u>1 100 67</u>	<u>51 261 16</u>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>				
Liabilities: Due to other funds Total liabilities			<u>1 100 67</u> 1 100 67	
Fund equity: Investment in general fixed assets Fund balances: Unreserved:	-	-	-	51 261 16
Undesignated Total fund equity	88 662 68 88 662 68	129 573 69 129 573 69		<u>-</u> 51 261 16
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	88 662 68	<u>129 573 69</u>	<u>1 100 67</u>	<u>51 261 16</u>

-	Total (Memorandum Only)
•	55 863 63 153 231 20 9 141 54 1 100 67 3 141 00
	44 486 18 3 633 98
=	<u>270 598 20</u>
-	1 100 67 1 100 67
	51 261 16
-	218 236 37 269 497 53
	270 598 20

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES Year Ended March 31, 2004 EXHIBIT B

	Government	al Fund Types	Total
Revenues:	General	Special Revenue	(Memorandum Only)
Property taxes	47.040.00	_	
Other taxes	17 910 67	4. OOL OZ	55 263 59
State revenue sharing	6 976 25		6 976 25
Charges for services – PTAF	35 746 00		35 746 00
Interest	7 045 94		7 045 94
Miscellaneous	2 470 89		4 671 48
	6 852 02	_	6 852 02
Total revenues	<u>77 001 77</u>	39 553 51	116 555 28
Expenditures:			
Legislative:			
Township Board	2 000 74		
General government:	2 890 71	-	2 890 71
Supervisor	4 570 05		
Assessor	4 572 85	-	4 572 85
Clerk	8 062 90	~	8 062 90
Board of Review	5 939 12	-	5 939 12
Treasurer	769 69	-	769 69
Township hall and grounds	7 380 61	-	7 380 61
Public safety:	5 394 79	~	5 394 79
Fire protection	10.540.40		
Public works:	16 513 40	-	16 513 40
Sanitation	10 00 1 77		
Highways and streets	16 994 75		16 994 75
Street lighting	757.04	12 786 55	12 786 55
Other:	757 34	-	757 34
Payroll taxes	400.04		
Pension	493 21	-	493 21
	1 398 58		<u>1 398 58</u>
Total expenditures	<u>71 167 95</u>	12 786 55	83 954 50
Excess (deficiency) of revenues			
over expenditures	5 833 82	26 766 96	32 600 78
Fund balances, April 1	82 828 86	102 806 73	<u> 185 635 39</u>
Fund Balances, March 31	88 662 68	<u>129 573 69</u>	218 236 37
The accompanying notes are an inte			

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements. - 3 -

### COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL -**GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS** Year Ended March 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT C** Page 1

General Fund Over (Under) Budget Actual Revenues: Budget Property taxes 19 800 00 17 910 67 (188933)Other taxes 6 976 00 6 976 25 State revenue sharing 25 32 000 00 35 746 00 Charges for services - PTAF 3 746 00 5 000 00 7 045 94 2 045 94 Interest 1 200 00 2 470 89 1 270 89 Miscellaneous <u>6 7</u>95 00 6 852 02 <u>5</u>7 02 Total revenues 71 771 00 <u>77 001 77</u> 5 230 77 Expenditures: Legislative: **Township Board** 3 200 00 2 890 71 General government: (30929)Supervisor 4 573 00 4 572 85 Assessor (15)8 500 00 8 062 90 (437 10) Clerk 6 600 00 5 939 12 (660.88)**Board of Review** 1 000 00 769 69 (23031)Treasurer 7 700 00 7 380 61 Township hall and grounds (31939)5 400 00 5 394 79 (521)Public safety: Fire protection 16 600 00 16 513 40 Public works: (86.60)Sanitation 17 500 00 16 994 75 (50525)Highways and streets Street lighting 780 00 757 34 Other: (22.66)Payroll taxes 800 00 493 21 (30679)Pension 1 600 00 1 398 58 (20142)Contingency <u>2 227 00</u> (2 227 00) Total expenditures 76 480 00 71 167 95 <u>(5 312 05)</u>

Special Revenue Fund					
Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget			
35 800 00 - -	37 352 92 -	1 552 92 -			
1 200 00 	2 200 59 	- 1 000 59 -			
<u>37 000 00</u>	39 553 51	2 553 51			
-	-	, <del>-</del>			
-	_	_			
-	-	_			
-	-	-			
-	-	-			
-	-	-			
-	-	-			
-	-	-			
54 025 00 -	- 12 786 55 -	- (41 238 45) -			
- -	-	<u>-</u> -			
<u>54 025 00</u>	12 786 55	(41 238 45)			

### COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL -GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS Year Ended March 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT C** Page 2

		General Fund	
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures			
experiulities	(4 709 00)	5 833 82	10 542 82
Fund balances, April 1	<u>78 976 43</u>	82 828 86	3 852 43
Fund Balances, March 31	<u>74 267 43</u>	88 662 68	14 395 25

Special Revenue Fund						
Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget				
(17 025 00)	26 766 96	43 791 96				
101 997 59	102 806 73	<u>809 14</u>				
<u>84 972 59</u>	<u>129 573 69</u>	44 601 10				

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

# Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of the Township of Ellis, Cheboygan County, Michigan, conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

#### **Reporting Entity**

In accordance with the provisions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's Statement No. 14 "The Financial Reporting Entity," the general purpose financial statements of the Township contain all the Township funds and account groups that are controlled by or dependent on the Township's executive or legislative branches.

The reporting entity is the Township of Ellis. The Township is governed by an elected Township Board. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements present the Township as the primary government.

#### Basis of Presentation

The financial activities of the local unit are recorded in separate funds and account groups, categorized and described as follows:

### Governmental Funds

#### General Fund

This fund is used to account for all financial transactions except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The fund includes the general operating expenditures of the local unit. Revenues are derived primarily from property taxes, state and federal distributions, grants, and other intergovernmental revenues.

### Special Revenue Fund

The special revenue fund is used to account for specific governmental revenues requiring separate accounting due to legal or regulatory provisions or administrative action.

#### Fiduciary Fund

This fund is used to account for assets held in trust or as an agent for others.

#### **Account Group**

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

# Note 1 – <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u> (continued)

### General Fixed Assets Account Group

This account group presents the fixed assets of the local unit utilized in its general operations.

# Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental fund types are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present revenues and other financing sources and, expenditures and other financial uses in net current assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is followed by the governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual which is both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures, other than principal and interest on long-term debt, are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Principal and interest on general long-term debt is recognized when due.

Revenues from local sources consist primarily of property taxes. Property taxes and revenues received from the State are recognized when susceptible to accrual. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenue when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Investment earnings are recorded as earned since they are measurable and available.

#### **Property Taxes**

Property taxes and other revenue that are both measurable and available for use to finance operations are recorded as revenue when earned.

Properties are assessed as of December 31 and the related property taxes become a lien on December 1 of the following year. These taxes are due on February 14 with the final collection date of February 28 before they are added to the county tax rolls. The Township 2003 tax roll millage rate was 2.8385 mills, and the taxable value was \$19,528,214.00.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

# Note 1 – <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u> (continued)

#### **Fixed Assets**

Purchases of fixed assets for all funds are recorded as expenditures in their respective funds at the time of purchase. They are also recorded at cost in the General Fixed Assets Group of Accounts as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

#### <u>Investments</u>

Investments are stated at market.

#### Receivables

Receivables have been recognized for all significant amounts due to the Township. Allowances for uncollectible accounts have not been provided for in that collection is not considered doubtful and any uncollected amount would be immaterial.

#### **Inventories**

Inventories of supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recorded.

# Compensated Absences (Vacation and Sick Leave)

Employees are not allowed to accumulate vacation and sick pay and therefore no accumulated amount is recorded in the financial statements.

## **Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in these general purpose financial statements:

- Prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the proposed budget for each budgetary fund is submitted to the Township Board for consideration.
- 2. The proposed budgets include expenditures as well as the methods of financing them.
- 3. Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments.
- The budgets are adopted at the activity level by a majority vote of the Township Board.
- 5. The budgets are adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

# Note 1 – <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u> (continued)

# Budgets and Budgetary Accounting (continued)

- The originally adopted budgets can be amended during the year only by a majority vote of the Township Board.
- 7. The adopted budgets are used as a management control device during the year for all budgetary funds.
- 8. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- 9. The budgeted amounts shown in these general purpose financial statements are the originally adopted budgets with all amendments that were approved by the Township Board during the fiscal year.

### **Encumbrances**

Encumbrances involving the current recognition of purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for future expenditures are not recorded.

### Postemployment Benefits

The Township provides no postemployment benefits to past employees.

### Note 2 - Deposits and Investments

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the Township to deposit and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; banker's acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated as investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan.

The Township Board has designated one bank for the deposit of Township funds. The investment policy adopted by the board in accordance with Public Act 196 of 1997 has authorized investment in all investments authorized by state law as listed above.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

# Note 2 – <u>Deposits and Investments</u> (continued)

The Township's deposits and investments are in accordance with statutory authority.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, risk disclosures for the cash deposits are as follows:					
				rying ounts	
Total Deposits			5	<u>5 863 63</u>	
Amounts in the bank bala checks.	nces are withou	t considerin			
			Bar <u>Bala</u>	nk nces	
Insured (FDIC) Uninsured and Uncollatera	alized		92	2 895 84	
Total Deposits			92	895 84	
The Township's investment risk assumed by the Township any one of the following criagent. Risk categories 2 a registered. Category 2 incompartment (or agent) in the by the counterparty or the counterparty or the counterparty.	teria: insured, r nd 3 include inv ludes investmen	registered, crestments that are h	or held by the at are neither neld by the co	estments that meet Township or its insured nor ounterparty's trust	
The GASB Statement No. 3 categorized as follows:	risk disclosures	s for the Tov	vnship's inve	stments are	
Investment Type	(1)	(2)	(3)	Carrying Amount	
Risk-Categorized: Operating Funds	_			_	
Total Risk-Categorized Investments		-		-	

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

# Note 2 - Deposits and Investments (continued)

Nonrisk-Categorized: Financial Institution	(1) (2) (3)	Carrying <u>Amount</u>
Pooled Funds		153 231 20
Total Investments		<u>153 231 20</u>

The financial institution pooled funds are not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Management believes that the investments in the funds comply with the investment authority noted above.

# Note 3 - Changes in General Fixed Assets

A summary of changes in general fixed assets follows:

	Balance 4/1/03	_Additions	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance <u>3/31/04</u>
Land and improvements Buildings Equipment	3 141 00 44 486 18 3 633 98	- -	- -	3 141 00 44 486 18 3 633 98
Totals	<u>51 261 16</u>			<u>51 261 16</u>

# Note 4 - Interfund Receivables and Payables

The amounts of interfund receivables and payables are as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	Interfund <u>Receivable</u>	<u>Fund</u>	Interfund Payable
General	<u>1 100 67</u>	<b>Current Tax Collection</b>	1 100 67
<b>5</b> 4			

## Note 5 - Deferred Compensation Plan

The Township does not have a deferred compensation plan.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

### Note 6 - Pension Plan

The Township has a defined contribution pension plan covering all full-time employees. The Township contributes a percentage of each covered employee's wages to the plan. The covered employees also contribute to the plan. The net pension expense for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004, was \$1,398.58.

### Note 7 - Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors, omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation). The Township has purchased commercial insurance for property loss, torts, and workers' compensation claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

### Note 8 - Building Permits

The Township of Ellis does not issue building permits. Building permits are issued by the County of Cheboygan.

# Note 9 - Total Columns on Combined Statements--Overview

The total columns on the combined financial statements are captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations, or changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation, because interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

		, and a second s	
	<u>GENERAL</u> FU		
		IND EXPENDITURES BY DETAILED ACCOUNT Year Ended March 31, 2004	EXHIBIT D
		7 odi Ended March 51, 2004	Page 1
_			· ·
	Township Board:		
_	Wages		
_	Supplies		1 869 37
	Advertising		206 71
_	Dues		81 50
	Miscellaneous		388 37
			344 76
	Supervisor:		2 890 71
-	Salary		
	Salary – deputy		3 661 96
	Mileage		456 00
	Miscellaneous		319 28
	wilderia ledus		<u> 135 61</u>
	Assessor:		
	Salary		4 572 85
	Contracted services		6 500 04
	Mileage		
	Miscellaneous		715 00
	Miscellaneous		721 75
	Clerk:		<u>126 11</u>
	Salary		8 062 90
			E 400.00
	Salary – deputy		5 400 00
	Supplies		38 00
	Mileage		238 51
	Miscellaneous		109 80
	Poord of D		<u>152 81</u>
	Board of Review:		5 939 12
	Wages		
	Miscellaneous		433 17
	Treeseas		<u>336 52</u>
	Treasurer:		769 69
	Salary		
	Salary – deputy		5 600 04
	Equalization		456 00
	Mileage		531 84
	Miscellaneous		166 54
	T 11 1 1		<u>626 19</u>
	Township hall and grounds:		7 380 61
	Insurance		
	Miscellaneous		3 024 00
_			<u>2 370 79</u>
			5 394 79

	y,gan	
	GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY DETAILED ACCOUNT Year Ended March 31, 2004	EXHIBIT D Page 2
_	Fire protection: Contracted services Sanitation: Salary	<u>16 513 40</u>
	Mileage Contracted services Miscellaneous	4 566 78 277 07 11 682 02 468 88 16 994 75
-	Street lighting	
	Payroll taxes	757 34
•	Pension	493 21
-	Total Expenditures	1 398 58
		71 167 95

# CURRENT TAX COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Year Ended March 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT E** 

-	<u>Assets</u>	Balance 4/1/03	Additions	<u>Deductions</u>	Balance 3/31/04
	Cash in Bank and Investments <u>Liabilities</u>	<u>999 96</u>	<u>485 081 82</u>	<u>484 981 11</u>	<u>1 100 67</u>
	Due to other funds Due to others Total Liabilities	999 96 999 96	52 129 99 432 951 83 485 081 82	52 029 28 432 951 83 484 981 11	1 100 67 

# CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

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AUDIT COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENTS IV

DEPT. OF TREASURY

AUG 3 1 2004

LOCAL AUDIT & FINANCE DIV.

July 23, 2004

To the Township Board Township of Ellis Cheboygan County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the Township of Ellis, for the year ended March 31, 2004. As required by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the independent auditor is required to make several communications to the governing body having oversight responsibility for the audit. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with additional information regarding the scope and results of our audit that may assist you with your oversight responsibilities of the financial reporting process for which management is responsible.

# AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES

We conducted our audit of the financial statements of the Township of Ellis in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. The following paragraph explains our responsibilities under those standards.

Management has the responsibility for adopting sound accounting policies, for maintaining an adequate and effective system of accounts, for the safeguarding of assets, and for devising an internal control structure that will, among other things, help assure the proper recording of transactions. The transactions that should be reflected in the accounts and in the financial statements are matters within the direct knowledge and control of management. Our knowledge of such transactions is limited to that acquired through our audit. Accordingly, the fairness of representations made through the financial statements is an implicit and integral part of management's accounts and records. However, our responsibility for the financial statements is remain the responsibility of management.

The concept of materiality is inherent in the work of an independent auditor. An auditor places greater emphasis on those items that have, on a relative basis, more importance to the financial statements and greater possibilities of material error than those items of lesser importance or those in which the possibility of material error is remote.

To the Township Board Township of Ellis Cheboygan County, Michigan

For this purpose, materiality has been defined as "the magnitude of an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement."

An independent auditor's objective in an audit is to obtain sufficient competent evidential matter to provide a reasonable basis for forming an opinion on the financial statements. In doing so, the auditor must work within economic limits; the opinion, to be economically useful, must be formed within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable cost. That is why an auditor's work is based on selected tests rather than an attempt to verify all transactions. Since evidence is examined on a test basis only, an audit provides only reasonable assurance, rather than absolute assurance, that financial statements are free of material misstatement. Thus, there is a risk that audited financial statements may contain undiscovered material errors or fraud. The existence of that risk is implicit in the phrase in the audit report, "in our opinion."

In the audit process, we gain an understanding of the internal control structure of an entity for the purpose of assisting in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit testing. Our understanding is obtained by inquiry of management, testing transactions, and observation and review of documents and records. The amount of work done is not sufficient to provide a basis for an opinion on the adequacy of the internal control structure.

# SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Auditing standards call for us to inform you of other significant issues such as, but not limited to, 1) Accounting estimates that are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements or because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments; 2) Significant audit adjustments that may not have been detected except through the auditing procedures we performed; 3) Disagreements with management regarding the scope of the audit or application of accounting principles; 4) Consultation with other accountants; 5) Major issues discussed with management prior to retention; and 6) Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

We have no significant issues, regarding these matters, to report to you at this time. Audit adjustments were minimal, and are available to review.

To the Township Board Township of Ellis Cheboygan County, Michigan

### **GASB 34 IMPLEMENTATION**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued a new reporting model for governmental units which is to be implemented over the next few years. The implementation date of this pronouncement for the Township of Ellis will begin with the year ended March 31, 2004, and will need to be implemented fully by March 31, 2005. The daily operations and recording transactions should not change significantly, however, the Township will be required to maintain additional records for the year end adjustments to the final presentation format.

# COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INTERNAL CONTROLS/ COMPLIANCE/

Our procedures disclosed the following conditions that we would like to bring to your attention:

### **SEGREGATION OF DUTIES**

A separation of duties between persons who authorize transactions and persons who have control over the related assets does not always exist.

The least desirable accounting system is one in which an employee is responsible for executing the transaction and then recording the transaction from its origin to its ultimate posting in the General Ledger. This increases the likelihood that intentional or unintentional errors will go undetected. In most cases, adequate segregation of duties substantially increases control over errors without duplication of effort.

We understand that due to the size of needed staff, a proper segregation of duties may be impractical and the "cost to benefit" relationship may not justify the addition of accounting staff to accomplish the desired segregation.

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests to be applied in our audit of the Township's financial statements and this communication of these matters does not affect our report on the Township's financial statements, dated March 31, 2004.

#### SUMMARY

We welcome any questions you may have regarding the foregoing comments and we would be happy to discuss any of these or other questions that you might have at your convenience.

Sincerely,

COUPDELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C. Certified Public Accountants